

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-22. (Cancelled)

Claim 23. (Currently Amended): An isolated polypeptide which is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which is at least 95% identical to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: ~~17~~ 19, the coding region of the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 207173, or a complement thereof, wherein the polypeptide has an activity selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) the ability to bind a TANGO-69-receptor ligand; and
- (ii) the ability to modulate the interaction of a TANGO-69-receptor ligand with mHVEM.

Claim 24. (Currently Amended): The polypeptide of claim 23, encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which is at least 98% identical to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: ~~17~~ 19, the coding region of the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 207173, or a complement thereof.

Claim 25. (Currently Amended): An isolated polypeptide which is ~~The polypeptide of claim 23,~~ encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: ~~17~~ 19 ~~or the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 207173.~~

Claim 26. (Currently Amended): An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which is at least 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18, wherein the polypeptide has an activity selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) the ability to bind a TANGO-69-receptor ligand; and
- (ii) the ability to modulate the interaction of a TANGO-69-receptor ligand with mHVEM.

Claim 27. (Currently Amended): The polypeptide of claim 26, ~~further comprising an~~ wherein the amino acid sequence which is at least 98% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 18, wherein the polypeptide has an activity selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) the ability to bind a TANGO-69-receptor ligand; and

(ii) the ability to modulate the interaction of a TANGO-69-receptor ligand with mHVEM.

Claims 28-29. (Canceled)

Claim 30. (Currently Amended): An isolated polypeptide which is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which is at least ~~90%~~ 95% identical to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: ~~17-19~~, the coding region of the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 207173, or a complement thereof, wherein said polypeptide is soluble, lacks a transmembrane domain and a cytoplasmic domain, and exhibits a ~~human TANGO-69-receptor activity~~, an activity selected from the group consisting of:

(i) the ability to bind a TANGO-69-receptor ligand; and

(ii) the ability to modulate the interaction of a TANGO-69-receptor ligand with mHVEM.

Claim 31. (Currently Amended): The polypeptide of claim 30, encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which is at least ~~92.5%~~ 98% identical to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: ~~17-19~~, the coding region of the cDNA insert of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 207173, or a complement thereof.

Claim 32. (Currently Amended): An isolated soluble polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which is at least ~~80%~~ 95% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:18, wherein said protein lacks a transmembrane domain and a cytoplasmic domain, and exhibits a ~~human TANGO-69-receptor activity~~ an activity selected from the group consisting of:

(i) the ability to bind a TANGO-69-receptor ligand; and

(ii) the ability to modulate the interaction of a TANGO-69-receptor ligand with mHVEM.

Claim 33. (Canceled)

Claim 34. (Currently Amended): The polypeptide of claim 32, ~~further comprising an~~ wherein the amino acid sequence which is at least ~~90%~~ 98% identical to the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:18, wherein the polypeptide has an activity selected from the group consisting of:

(i) the ability to bind a TANGO-69-receptor ligand; and

(ii) the ability to modulate the interaction of a TANGO-69-receptor ligand with mHVEM.

Claim 35. (Previously Presented): The polypeptide of claim 23, further comprising heterologous amino acid sequences.

Claim 36. (Previously Presented): The polypeptide of claim 26, further comprising heterologous amino acid sequences.

Claim 37. (Previously Presented): The polypeptide of claim 30, further comprising heterologous amino acid sequences.

Claim 38. (Previously Presented): The polypeptide of claim 32, further comprising heterologous amino acid sequences.

Claim 39. (Newly Added): An isolated polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:18.

Claim 40. (Newly Added): The polypeptide of claim 39, further comprising heterologous amino acid sequences.

Claim 41. (Newly Added): An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence encoded by the cDNA sequence of the plasmid deposited with ATCC as Accession Number 207173.

Claim 42. (Newly Added): The polypeptide of claim 41, further comprising heterologous amino acid sequences.